

Director of Central Intelligence

7 November 1947

Executive for A&M

Pictorial Records Collection

1. For over a year tentative negotiations have been conducted in connection with the suitable placing of the responsibility for a pictorial records collection now handled by the State Department. Until recently the only interest evidenced by this agency was in an index indicating the contents of this collection. Several agencies have requested portions of it but no one, until recently, has indicated a willingness to take it over.

2. After publication of a recent SID the War Department found there was considerable material in these records which should have been included in their publication. For this reason they conducted some negotiations with State to assume the responsibility for a portion of it with the evident intention of destroying the rest.

3. The value of this collection is estimated at approximately \$3,000,000. I recently arranged a conference of Mr. Strong, the State Department representative who is now responsible for the collection, with our Reference Center Chief, the Chief of the Basic Intelligence Staff, ORE, and an ICAPS representative. In this conference it was determined that the collection could be exploited in its entirety to the very great advantage and the support of our basic intelligence program. It would fit perfectly into the Graphics Division of the Reference Center, the staff of which is already provided to the extent that approximately only an additional six individuals would be required to make the fullest use of this material, not only for our NIS program, but for other agencies for departmental needs.

4. As assuming responsibility for this collection would enable CIA to provide still another valuable central service with negligible additional cost to us, we are proceeding with developing the necessary arrangements, including Budget Bureau clearance, to take it over.

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